

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 IO-13 AID-05 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 /092 W
-----121129 050818Z /11

R 050522Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO USMISSION USUN NY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1274

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 1654

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EINV, ECOSOC, BGEN, PINT, SA
SUBJECT:ECOSOC ILLICIT PAYMENTS WORKING GROUP AND SAG

REF: JIDDA 1573

1. CHARGE CALLED ON MFA DEPMIN MANSOURI MARCH 4 TO URGE SAUDI PARTICIPATION IN ECOSOC WORKING GROUP ON ILLICIT PRACTICES. MANSOURI SHOWED LITTLE ENTHUSIASM, NOTING THAT SAG COULD KEEP ITSELF INFORMED INDEPENDENTLY OF GROUP'S DELIBERATIONS AND SAW NO REASON TO PARTICIPATE. CHAGRE YORESSED THE FACT THAT SAG HAS INTERESTS IN OUTCOME OF DRAFTING EFFORT AND MIGHT FIND IT USEFUL TO JOIN AT AN EARLY DATE; HE DREW MANSOURI'S ATTENTION TO INTEREST SHOWN IN WORKING GROUP BY MINISTERS GOSAIBI AND YAMANI. MANSOURI ACCEPTED COPY OF TALKING POINTS BUT REMAINED NONCOMMITTAL ON SAG PARTICIPATION.

2. COMMENT: MANSARI'S REACTION WAS SIMILAR TO THAT OF DEPUTY MINISTER ALIREZA, WITH WHOM WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE PREVIOUSLY. AS MFA HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANNING SAUDI UN MISSION AND DIRECTING ITS ACTIVITIES, WE SEE LITTLE CHANCE OF OBTAINING SAG PARTICIPATION FOR MARCH OR EVEN APRIL SESSIONS. BELIEVE USUN
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SHOULD ATTEMPT TO ENCOURAGE SAUDI DEL TO FOLLOW WORKING GROUP'S DISCUSSIONS AND HIGHLIGHT TO THEM ANY AREAS OF POSSIBLE CONCERN SO THAT THEY CAN INFLUENCE MFA'S THINKING ABOUT SUBSEQUENT PARTICIPATION. WE WILL ALSO TAKE APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCUSS WITH OTHER SAG MINISTERS IN EFFORT TO BRING THEM TO FOCUS ON THE ISSUE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIBERY, CORRUPTION, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JIDDA01654
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780100-0046
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803105/aaaadlha.tel
Line Count: 63
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 75407bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 JIDDA 1573
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3113438
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECOSOC ILLICIT PAYMENTS WORKING GROUP AND SAG
TAGS: EINV, BGEN, PINT, SA, ECOSOC
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcr://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/75407bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014